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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/476,321	01/03/2000	CARL OPPEDAHL	ASCOP065USFU.	7662
2512	7590	03/10/2004	EXAMINER	
PERMAN & GREEN 425 POST ROAD FAIRFIELD, CT 06824			SHERR, CRISTINA O	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3621	
DATE MAILED: 03/10/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/476,321

Applicant(s)

OPPEDAHL, CARL

Examiner

Cristina O Sherr

Art Unit

3621

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

1. This communication is in response to the Amendment filed 22 December 2003.
Claims 1-23 are pending in this case.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 22 December 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues, with respect to claims 1-5, that the reference does not disclose bar-code readers or paper paths. Applicant's attention is respectfully directed to Cordery et al (US 6,175,827B1) at, e.g., Col 4 ln 20 – col 6 ln 40. Applicant further argues with respect to claims 6-23 that Cordery does not disclose collating mail. Applicant's attention is directed to, e.g., Col 5 ln 20 – col 6 ln 40.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cordery et al (US 6,175,827B1).

5. Regarding claim 1 –

Cordery discloses an improved system for authentication of mail pieces bearing bar-coded indicia, the system comprising first and second bar-code readers, said first and second bar-code readers differing in that said first bar-code reader has a lower rate of

successful reading of bar-coded indicia than said second bar-code reader, said system defining a first paper path through said first bar-code reader and subsequently through a first collator, said system disposed to collate a mail piece bearing an indicium in a second paper path in the event of a successful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said first bar-code reader, said system disposed to collate mail pieces in a third paper path in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said first bar-code reader, said third paper path leading to said second bar-code reader, said system disposed to collate mail pieces in a fourth paper path in the event of a successful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said second bar-code reader, said system disposed to collate mail pieces in a fifth paper path in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said second bar-code reader (Col 4 ln 20 – col 6 ln 40).

6. Regarding claim 2 –

Cordery discloses the improved system of claim 1 further comprising a third bar-code reader, said second and third bar-code readers differing in that said second bar-code reader has a lower rate of successful reading of bar-coded indicia than said third bar-code reader, said system further defining said fifth paper path through a second collator, said system disposed to collate mail pieces in a sixth paper path in the event of a successful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said second barcode reader, said system disposed to collate mail pieces in a seventh paper path in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said second bar-code reader (col 5 ln 36-52).

7. Regarding claim 3 –

Cordery discloses the improved system of claim 1 wherein the first bar-code reader is less expensive than the second bar-code reader (Col 5 ln 28-35).

8. Regarding claim 4 –

Cordery discloses the improved system of claim 1 wherein the first bar-code reader is faster than the second bar-code reader (Col 6 ln 6 – 15).

9. Regarding claim 5 –

Cordery discloses the improved system of claim 1 wherein the first bar-code reader has lower scanning resolution than the second bar-code reader (Col 5 ln 5-12).

10. Claims 6-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cordery et al (US 6,175,827B1).

11. Regarding claim 6 –

Cordery discloses a method for authenticating mail pieces bearing bar-coded indicia, the method comprising the steps of passing a mail piece bearing an indicium through a first bar-code reader, subsequently automatically collating said mail piece to a second paper path to a second bar-code reader in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said indicium by said first bar-code reader, said first and second bar-code readers differing in that said first bar-code reader has a lower rate of successful reading of bar-coded indicia than said second bar-code reader (Col 4 ln 20 – col 6 ln 40).

12. Regarding claim 7 –

Cordery discloses the method of claim 6 further comprising subsequently automatically collating said mail piece to a third paper path in the event of successful reading of said indicium by said second barcode reader (Col 6 In 30-40).

13. Regarding claim 8 –

Cordery discloses the method of claim 6 further comprising subsequently automatically collating said mail piece to a fourth paper path to a third bar-code reader in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said second bar-code reader, said second and third bar-code readers differing in that said second bar-code reader has a lower rate of successful reading of bar-coded indicia than said third bar-code reader (Col. 6 In 23-29).

14. Regarding claim 9 –

Cordery discloses the method of claim 8 further comprising subsequently automatically collating said mail piece to a fifth paper path in the event of successful reading of said indicium by said third barcode reader (Col. 5 In 52-59).

15. Regarding claim 10 –

Cordery discloses the method of claim 8 further comprising subsequently automatically collating said mail piece to a sixth paper path in the event of unsuccessful reading of said indicium by said third barcode reader (Col. 5 In 52-59).

16. Regarding claim 11 –

Cordery discloses the method of claim 7 further comprising the step of delivering the mail piece after said successful reading of said indicium by said second bar-code reader (Col 6 In 23-28).

17. Regarding claim 12 –

Cordery discloses the method of claim 9 further comprising the step of delivering the mail piece after said successful reading of said indicium by said third bar-code reader (Col 6 In 23-28).

18. Regarding claim 13 –

Cordery discloses the method of claim 6 further comprising subsequently automatically collating said mail piece to a fifth paper path in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said second bar-code reader (Col. 5 In 52-59).

19. Regarding claim 14 –

Cordery discloses the method of claim 13 further comprising the step of returning the mail piece to the sender after unsuccessful reading of said bar code by said second bar-code reader (Col 6 In 7-15).

20. Regarding claim 15 –

Cordery discloses the method of claim 10 further comprising the step of returning the mail piece to the sender after unsuccessful reading of said bar code by said third bar-code reader (Col 6 In 7-15).

21. Regarding claim 16 –

Cordery discloses the method of claim 6 further comprising subsequently performing a cryptographic authentication of said indicium and automatically collating said mail piece to a seventh paper path in the event of successful authentication of said bar code by said second bar-code reader (Col 9 In 41-61).

22. Regarding claim 17 –

Art Unit: 3621

Cordery discloses the method of claim 6 further comprising subsequently performing a cryptographic authentication of said indicium and automatically collating said mail piece to an eighth paper path in the event of unsuccessful authentication of said bar code by said second bar-code reader (Col 9 ln 53-61).

23. Regarding claim 18 –

Cordery discloses the method of claim 9 further comprising subsequently performing a cryptographic authentication of said indicium and automatically collating said mail piece to a ninth paper path in the event of successful authentication of said bar code by said third bar-code reader (Col 9 ln 41-61).

24. Regarding claim 19 –

Cordery discloses the method of claim 9 further comprising subsequently performing a cryptographic authentication of said indicium and automatically collating said mail piece to a tenth paper path in the event of unsuccessful authentication of said bar code by said third bar-code reader (Col 9 ln 53-61).

25. Claims 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cordery et al (US 6,175,827B1).

26. Regarding claim 20 –

Cordery discloses an improved system for authentication of mail pieces bearing bar-coded indicia, the system comprising first, second, and third bar-code readers, said first and third bar-code readers differing in that said first bar-code reader has a lower rate of successful reading of bar-coded indicia than said third bar-code reader, said second and third bar-code readers differing in that said second bar-code reader has a lower

Art Unit: 3621

rate of successful reading of bar-coded indicia than said third barcode reader, said system defining a first paper path through said first bar-code reader and subsequently through a first collator, said system disposed to collate a mail piece bearing an indicium in a second paper path in the event of a successful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said first bar-code reader, said system disposed to collate mail pieces in a third paper path in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said first bar-code reader, said third paper path leading to said third bar-code reader, said system defining a fourth paper path through said second bar-code reader and subsequently through a second collator, said system disposed to collate a mail piece bearing an indicium in a fifth paper path in the event of a successful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said second bar-code reader, said system disposed to collate mail pieces in a sixth paper path in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said second bar-code reader, said sixth paper path leading to said third bar-code reader said system disposed to collate mail pieces in a seventh paper path in the event of a successful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said third bar-code reader, said system disposed to collate mail pieces in an eighth paper path in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said third bar-code reader (Col 4 ln 20 – col 6 ln 40).

27. Regarding claim 21 –

Cordery discloses the improved system of claim 20 wherein the first and second bar-code readers are each less expensive than the third bar-code reader (Col 5 ln 28-35).

28. Regarding claim 22 –

- Art Unit: 3621

Cordery discloses the improved system of claim 20 wherein the first and second bar-code readers are each faster than the third bar-code reader (Col 6 ln 6 – 15).

29. Regarding claim 23 –

Cordery discloses the improved system of claim 20 wherein the first and second bar-code readers each have lower scanning resolution than the third bar-code reader (Col 5 ln 5-12).

30. Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may be applied as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

31. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

32. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

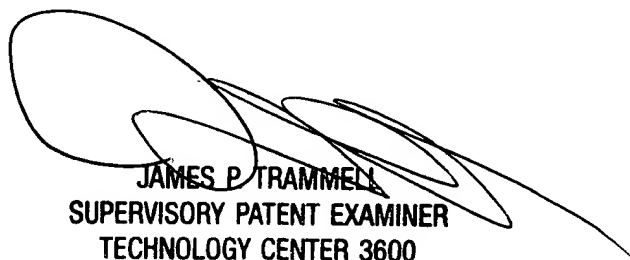
Art Unit: 3621

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

33. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cristina O Sherr whose telephone number is 703-305-0625. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 to 5:00.

34. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

35. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


JAMES P. TRAMMELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600